



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

www.flgov.com
850-488-7146
850-487-0801 fax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2006

CONTACT: RUSSELL SCHWEISS
(850) 488-5394

GOVERNOR BUSH PRESENTS POINTS OF LIGHT AWARD TO PATRICIA SANTUCCI

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Jeb Bush today recognized Dr. Patricia Santucci of Sanibel as this week's Points of Light Award recipient. Santucci creates emergency preparedness programs to assist the Southwest Florida Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) with emergency response.

"Many Floridians are learning the importance of preparation with the help of Patricia's community programs," said Governor Bush. "Volunteers are an important part of our comprehensive plan to instill a 'culture of preparedness' in Florida."

Santucci facilitates training programs for the Florida MRC and community members. As a member of the National Committee for MRC Core Competencies, she seeks ways to improve the local chapter of the organization. In 2005, Santucci served as the volunteer medical director of the Southwest Florida MRC, where she taught an enhanced version of the American Medical Association's core disaster life support course. Additionally, Santucci was named the national co-chair for the Medical Reserve Corps' Mental Health Committee. She develops recommendations for the MRC's disaster behavioral health response programs to meet the needs of MRC members' in this area. Santucci, who is a psychiatrist, presented the committee's recommendations of disaster mental health in three presentations at the annual National MRC Leadership Conference last week.

"Dr. Santucci's commitment to disaster preparedness and response is awesome," said Dr. Judith Hartner, Director of the Lee County Health Department. "She is a strong leader and charter member of our MRC and put plans into action after hurricanes Charley, Katrina and Wilma."

The Governor's Points of Light Award, sponsored by Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises, recognizes a Florida resident or organization that demonstrated exemplary service to the community. Award recipients are announced weekly. A panel of judges comprised of leaders in the areas of volunteerism and service evaluate all nominations and make recommendations to Governor Bush. The Volunteer Florida Foundation manages the program. For more information, or to nominate, please visit www.VolunteerFloridaFoundation.org.

###



Governor's Mentoring Initiative
BE A MENTOR. BE A BIG HELP.
1-800-825-3786